

# Morning Highlights

Thursday, June 23, 2011  
Morning Highlights  
Time: 11:00 a.m.

**Contacts**  
Alaska Interagency Fire Information Center: (907) 356-5511  
Report Fires: 911

## The Life Stages of a Wildfire – Part 2

Yesterday we described the stages of a wildfire from [detection](#) through [extended attack](#), which may require an [Incident Management Team](#) (IMT). All links connect to the Glossary of Wildland Fire Terminology (<http://www.nwcg.gov/pms/pubs/glossary/i.htm>). The objective of extended attack may be to [suppress](#) the fire, or put it out completely. This is usually done by building a [control line](#), i.e. fireline, around the fire in order to [contain](#) it. Once the fire is contained, [mop up](#) operations begin in order to extinguish any remaining [hot spots](#) within the fire perimeter, or outside fire boundary. Once the control line is secure and the hot spots are extinguished, the fire may be declared [controlled](#).

Any lands or facilities that are damaged as a result of fire suppression activities require [rehabilitation](#), or rehab. Often this consists of restoration of firelines created by [hand crews](#) or [dozers](#). Any supplies or equipment that were used to work on the fire must be taken back to a central point (backhauled) and then returned to a warehouse or other agency location to be cleaned, repaired, and readied for another [incident](#).

The final stages of a fire include [demobilization](#) of resources that are no longer needed, and dismantling of any base or spike [camps](#) and the [Incident Command Post](#).

Responsibility for managing the fire is then returned to the fire protection agency.



Backhauling fire hose from the Hastings Fire. Photo: Teri Miller

## Fire Weather

A series of low pressure waves moving in from the east will bring lighter showers throughout much of Alaska. The Brooks Range and eastern Interior will again see isolated wet thunderstorms. High pressure will begin to push to the south on Friday, warming temperatures to the low 80s in northern and eastern Alaska by the weekend. Western

Alaska and the South Central area will remain cool and damp due to low pressure from the west.

## Wildfire Update

One new fire was reported yesterday. The **Young Creek Fire** near Wasilla was an abandoned warming fire that has been put out. Statewide, 31 fires are currently active, with three of these staffed and the remainder in monitor status. According to the Alaska Interagency Coordination Center, there have been 335 fires this year to date in Alaska, and 262,212 acres have burned. Current fires of note include:

The **Hastings Fire**, 15 miles northwest of Fairbanks, remains at 22,819 acres and is 61 percent contained. Fire behavior consists of smoldering and creeping. Minimal fire spread is expected. Securing northern fire perimeter, mop-up and fireline rehabilitation are ongoing.

The **East Volkmar Fire**, 25 miles northeast of Delta Junction, is 58,059 acres and is 32 percent contained. Nearly all demob has been completed and the fire is in monitor status. Remaining personnel are finishing cleanup work.

The **Little Creek Fire**, 36 miles south of Tanana, is 26,200 acres and zero percent contained. Fire behavior consists of smoldering and creeping. Mop-up continues near Akers airstrip. Additional burnout may occur if conditions permit.

### For further information:

Alaska Fire Situation Report: <http://fire.ak.blm.gov/content/aicc/sitreport/current.pdf>

Fire news releases: <http://fire.ak.blm.gov/newsroom.php>

## Alaska Fire Information

The Alaska Interagency Fire Information Center will no longer be staffed starting tomorrow. The Center was activated when the number and complexity of wildfires statewide warranted additional public information presence and coordination. With moderating fire conditions, the Center is no longer needed. Fire information may still be obtained by calling the BLM Alaska Fire Service and Alaska Division of Forestry information officers at 907-356-5511 or checking <http://fire.ak.blm.gov>.

### Fire Information Contacts

- **Alaska Interagency Fire Information Center**
  - 907-356-5511
  - [AlaskaJIC@gmail.com](mailto:AlaskaJIC@gmail.com)
- **Hastings Fire Information:**
  - 907-451-2626 x2
  - <http://inciweb.org/incident/2261/>
  - [HastingsFire@gmail.com](mailto:HastingsFire@gmail.com)

## Aviation Awareness

A TFR remains in place over the Hastings Fire (FDC is 1/8460). Helicopter and fixed-wing aircraft continue to support fire suppression and crew/cargo movement throughout the state, frequently in areas with visibility restricted due to smoke. Please check NOTAMS for Temporary Flight Restrictions: <http://tfr.faa.gov/tfr2/list.html>. Report new fires you may observe to the nearest FAA facility.

## Wildfire Smoke

Individuals with health concerns should consult personal medical providers.

- AK Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) – Smoke: <http://www.dec.state.ak.us/air/am/smoke.htm>
- DEC Air Quality Advisories/Alerts: <https://myalaska.state.ak.us/dec/air/airtoolsweb/AirOnlineServices.aspx>
- Fairbanks North Star Borough Smoke Visibility/ Air Quality: <http://co.fairbanks.ak.us/airquality> and <http://co.fairbanks.ak.us/airquality/Docs/ParticulateLevels.pdf>

## Additional References

- Alaska Interagency Coordination Center: <http://fire.ak.blm.gov/>
  - Map of Current Fires: <http://fire.ak.blm.gov/predsvcs/maps.php>
  - Alaska Situation Report: <http://fire.ak.blm.gov/content/aicc/sitreport/current.pdf>
  - National Fire Situation Report: <http://www.nifc.gov/nicc/sitreprt.pdf>
  - Guide to Wildland Fire Suppression in AK: <http://fire.ak.blm.gov/content/news/psa/Media%20Guide%20to%20AK%20Wildland%20Fire%20Suppression.pdf>
- Alaska Division of Forestry (Burn Permit Info): <http://forestry.alaska.gov/burn/>
- Alaska Wildland Fire Coordinating Group - Education and Reference Materials: <http://fire.ak.blm.gov/administration/awfcg.php>
- Protect your home and property!: <http://firewise.org/> and <http://forestry.alaska.gov/pdfs/firewise09.pdf>
- Department of Environmental Conservation (Smoke Concerns): <http://www.dec.state.ak.us/air/am/smoke.htm>
- Department of Transportation (Road Closure Info): (907) 451-2240, <http://511.alaska.gov/>
- National Parks Service: <http://www.nps.gov/akso/Fire/firehome.htm>
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife: <http://www.fws.gov/fire/>
- USDA Forest Service: <http://www.fs.fed.us/fire/>
- Anchorage Fire Department: [www.muni.org/fire](http://www.muni.org/fire)
- National Weather Service: <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/>
- Temporary Flight Restriction Information: <http://tfr.faa.gov/tfr2/list.html>
- Federal Aviation Administration: <http://www.faa.gov/>

***AICC Morning Highlights is compiled by Alaska Division of Forestry and BLM Alaska Fire Service.***